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## MACTE January 2026 Newsletter

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# January 2026 Newsletter

The Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) publishes a newsletter monthly during the academic year. MACTE members with information or opportunities of interest to the broader teacher education community are invited to submit items for the newsletter. Please contact [mactecommunication@gmail.com](mailto:mactecommunication@gmail.com) for more information.

## MACTE Updates

### **MACTE Winter Meeting Keynote Speaker Announcement**

Our [winter conference](#) will be held over Zoom on February 6, 2026.

In light of the ongoing situation in Minnesota due to actions by the federal government, as well as continued actions against government agencies supporting education, MEC has invited Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, President and CEO of AACTE and Jacqueline King, AACTE's Consultant for Federal Advocacy and State Affiliates, to address our chapter at our February 6th convening. Cheryl and Jaci will discuss the national political climate and offer legal and advocacy guidance.

In addition to the presentation from National AACTE, we will have legislative updates, breakout sessions, role-alike meetings, and PELSB updates. The [winter conference agenda is now available](#). We hope to see you there!

**Register Today for the Virtual Meeting on February 6.**

## **MACTE Spring Meeting: Call for Proposals**

Our [spring conference](#) will be held over Zoom on April 10, 2026. The day will combine the business meeting and professional development sessions. The conference planning committee is still in search of a few breakout sessions focused on teacher education. Please consider presenting!

**Submit a Spring Proposal**

## **Middle-Level Math Meeting/Workgroup**

MACTE is considering forming a workgroup to discuss and make recommendations about adjustments to content standards for the 5-8 math license. If you are interested in being part of this conversation, please email Cari Maguire at [maguire@umn.edu](mailto:maguire@umn.edu).

## **MACTE/ServeMinnesota Reading Methods Teaching Materials Updates**

Over the past three years, MACTE has partnered with ServeMinnesota to provide materials to support instruction in reading methods courses to MACTE teacher educators. The materials include classroom videos and sample curriculum featuring [Bridge2Read](#), a free, foundational literacy curriculum created by ServeMinnesota.

Because Bridge2Read has undergone some recent revision, the materials available for our reading methods courses have also been updated. **The links to current materials will become inactive at the end of January.** Be sure to update your syllabi to reflect the new materials before spring semester.

The materials are available on [the MACTE website](#). [Information about obtaining the password](#) for the classroom videos can also be found on the MACTE website.

## **Minnesota Meet Up at AACTE**

If you will be attending AACTE's annual meeting in New Orleans this February and are interested in gathering with your Minnesota colleagues, please email Cari Maguire ([maguire@umn.edu](mailto:maguire@umn.edu)). We will schedule an opportunity for MACTE members to gather during the conference.

## **TeachMN Website Updates**

MEC received updates on TeachMN's website and teacher candidates recruitment activities at our January meeting. More than 20 TPPs have created profiles on the TeachMN site and the organization has given over 280 scholarships and application fee reimbursements to prospective teacher candidates. If your unit has not yet decided to be part of TeachMN, MEC encourages you to do so. Contact Angela Wanderlust ([awunderlich@teachmn.org](mailto:awunderlich@teachmn.org)) for more information.

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## **Legislative Updates**

The 2026 Minnesota Legislative Session launches Tuesday, February 17. Because this is an even-numbered year, the legislature will focus on the "bonding bill" (public works projects) and essential policy adjustments vs. the odd-numbered years where they focus on the budget bills. Legislative leadership has combined the first and second committee deadlines into a single high-stakes cutoff on Friday, March 27, at 5:00 p.m. The third and final deadline for major finance bills landing on Friday, April 17. The constitutionally mandated adjournment date is Monday, May 18. We will continue to advocate for sustained investment in our teacher workforce. [MACTE's ongoing priorities include](#) protecting funding for teacher preparation, maintaining high-quality and clear standards, and enhancing reading instruction across all preparation programs.

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# AACTE Updates

## **AACTE 2026 to Conclude with Visionary Closing Plenary**

AACTE 2026 will conclude with a dynamic and forward-looking plenary session titled “Reinventing Tomorrow: Bold Futures for Educator Preparation,” bringing together nationally recognized leaders whose work sits at the intersection of policy, equity, research, and educator advocacy. The session will take place on February 22 from 8:30 to 11 a.m., offering attendees a powerful closing conversation that examines how educator preparation must evolve to meet a rapidly shifting educational landscape. [Read more about the panelists.](#)

## **AACTE Advocacy Updates**

AACTE is the voice of U.S. educator preparation and maintains a constant presence on Capitol Hill to influence federal policies and funding on behalf of the profession. [Learn all about the educator preparation issues at the state and federal level as well as how to get involved and have your voice heard.](#)

## **Journal Of Teacher Education**

The [\*Journal of Teacher Education \(JTE\)\*](#), the official journal of AACTE, has been a leading voice in the field of teacher preparation for 75 years and is one of the most widely read professional journals in the field. JTE’s five peer-reviewed issues per volume year contain thematic and general interest articles as well as editorials and commentaries. Its content focuses on policy, practice, and research that contribute to educator preparation as a field of inquiry along numerous themes, including accreditation, assessment and evaluation, extended programs, teacher educators, student teaching, and others.

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# PELSB Updates

## **Student Teaching During an Emergency**

At the January 2026 meeting, the PELSB Board heard from teacher preparation providers and discussed the challenges of in-person student teaching while many schools are moving to emergency online or hybrid learning formats. The board adopted the following resolution (available in full on the [PELSB website](#)) to provide flexibility for providers. Field experiences and practica may be in online or hybrid school settings without a discretionary variance.

- "If completing the required number of weeks of face-to-face student teaching as required in Standards 11 & 12 is not feasible due to an emergency declaration by the state, an authorized strike, or other unforeseen circumstances as determined by the unit, the unit may allow the candidate to complete replacement activities. The unit must document the emergency circumstances and any replacement activities within the candidates file.
- This resolution will remain in effect through June 30, 2026."

Providers that have candidates experiencing difficulty with meeting the requirements of the edTPA may request flexibility via a request for discretionary variance ([Discretionary Variance Request Form](#)).

## **Upcoming RTAP Seminar for Teacher Preparation Providers**

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), and the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) are excited to host a Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program (RTAP) Seminar designed for teacher preparation providers who are currently offering, planning to offer, or exploring related technical instruction (RTI). This half-day session will feature expert guidance, practice insights, and opportunities to connect with colleagues across Minnesota.

Topics include:

- Best practices for delivering RTI from DLI, MDE, and PELSB
- Lessons learned from TPPs starting and sustaining RTAPs
- Strategies for collaborating effectively with apprenticeships sponsors
- Tips for maximizing the Proserva platform
- Networking with RTAP partners statewide

## Event Details

- Date: February 4, 2026
- Time: 8:30am-12:30pm
- Location: Minnesota Department of Education, 400 Stinson Blvd NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413
- Format: In-person and virtual options available (in-person encouraged)
- RSVP: [Please register by January 28, 2026.](#)

Please reach out to Emily Busta, Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Specialist, with any questions about the event.

## PELSB Mailing List

If you do not already receive email updates from PELSB, [sign up for their mailing list here.](#)

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